

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 JUSE-00 SEC-01

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O R 080933Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4066

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18058

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: MIKI MOVING TOWARD RESIGNATION

SUMMARY. EVENTS OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS INDICATE THAT MIKI IS PREPARING FOR GRACEFUL EXIT, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. CONSULTATIONS ON SUCCESSOR ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY WITH NO SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO FUKUDA EVIDENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IT NOW APPEARS ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT PRIMIN MIKI WILL OFFER HIS RESIGNATION, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE TOLD PRESS DECEMBER 8 THAT MIKI FELT KEEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR LDP ELECTION DEBACLE WHICH HE WOULD NOT SHIRK. IDE WENT ON TO ANNOUNCE THAT MIKI WAS AT WORK PREPARING THREE-POINT PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION TO PARTY LEADERSHIP WITHIN NEXT TWO-THREE DAYS, WHICH IS BEING WIDELY INTERPRETED AS LAST-DITCH EFFORT BY MIKI TO LEAVE BEHIND SOME KIND OF LEGACY. PROPOSAL WOULD CALL FOR REVISION OF PARTY RULES FOR POPULAR ELECTION OF PARTY PRESIDENT, THOROUGH INVESTI-
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GATION OF LOCKHEED SCANDAL, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL

PHILOSOPHY THAT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY REFORM PARTY'S
OUTDATED CHARACTER AND SYSTEM OF LEADERSHIP BY "ELDERS."

2. CONSULTATIONS ON CHOICE OF SUCCESSOR ARE PROCEEDING
QUIETLY. SOME MIKI FACTION MEMBERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO
SPREAD BLAME FOR ELECTION DEBACLE, BUT EFFORTS APPEAR
TO HAVE MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS AND THERE HAS BEEN NO
SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO A FUKUDA SUCCESSION. FUKUDA
APPEARS TO BE PROCEEDING CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE
THAT HIS SELECTION WILL NOT SMELL OF "BACKROOM POLITICS"
AND WILL COME ABOUT WITHOUT A HITCH. BEST ESTIMATE IS
THAT MIKI MAY ANNOUNCE INTENTION TO RESIGN AS EARLY
AS NEXT WEEK. PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD THEN CONDUCT WIDE-
RANGING CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY DIET DELEGATION, INCLUDING
NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS, LEADING TO LDP DIET MEMBERS'
CAUCUS OR CONVENTION. AROUND DECEMBER 20. THIS,
IN TURN, WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION
TO ELECT NEW PRIME MINISTER AROUND CHRISTMAS.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO18058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-0459
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761260/aaaabzyf.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIKI MOVING TOWARD RESIGNATION SUMMARY. EVENTS OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS INDICATE THAT MIKI IS PREPARING FOR GRACEFUL EXIT, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, JA, (MIKI, TAKEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006